



BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Education - Public Schools Branch

Putting things in perspective. A recent UNESCO publication entitled *Primary Education for All Children* (2005) says that one in three children worldwide never see the inside of a classroom. As I look at the contents of this edition of *Branching Out* with its references to high quality and varied learning resources, cross-cultural perspectives, and teacher PD opportunities...I can't help but think how fortunate we are. Have a great year!

Mike Sweeney, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch



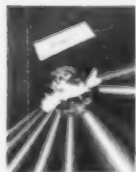
October 23 is National School Library Day

National School Library Day, to be celebrated on the 4th Monday in October, was proclaimed by Roch Carrier, National Librarian of Canada, at the National School Library Summit held in Ottawa in June of 2003. The first National School Library Day was held on Monday, October 27th, 2003.

For information about the theme, ideas, and promotional materials, visit www.nsls.ca.

New Network Access and Use Policy

The Department of Education has released a new Network Access and Use Policy that will govern the use of computers in schools across Nova Scotia. The policy is effective as of August 1, 2006. The document is available at lrt.ednet.ns.ca/pdf/aup.pdf



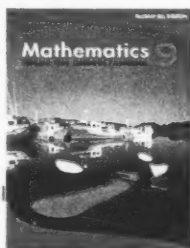
See Sample Correspondence Studies Lessons online at

lrt.ednet.ns.ca/corr_studies/courses.shtml

Visit our website to see sample lessons from our correspondence study courses. You can see the kind of assignments that will be expected, the workload for the course, and how the lessons are organized.

ICT Integrated Lessons now online!

Teachers from across the province participated in 3 workshops to develop lessons that integrate Information and Communication Technology outcomes with curriculum outcomes. You can download the lessons from lrt.ednet.ns.ca/ict_projects. Each lesson includes rubrics, blackline masters, and detailed instructions. New lessons are being added regularly. These lessons primarily focus on the curriculum in grades 7 to 9 with examples in mathematics, core French, English language arts and social studies.



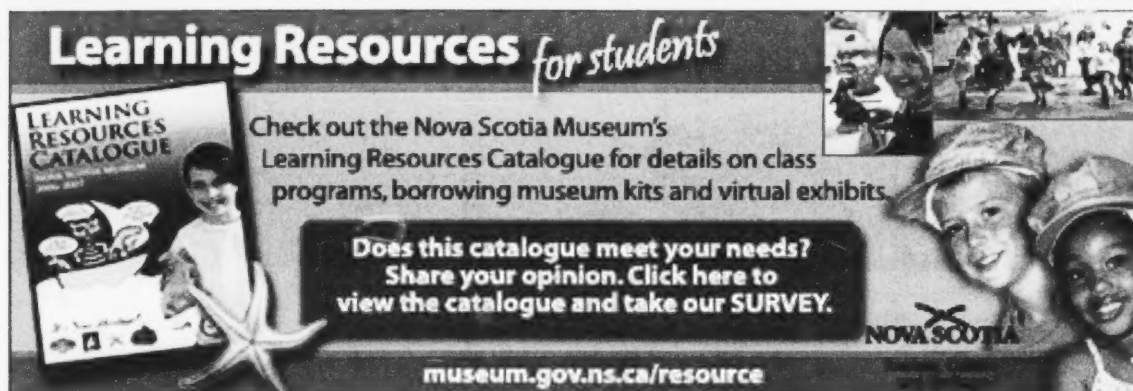
New Core Resource — Mathematics 9: Focus on Understanding

Grade 9 teachers and students will be using a new core resource this year. *Mathematics 9: Focus on Understanding* is now in all schools along with the *Mathematics 9: Focus on Understanding Teacher's Resource* and *Mathematics 9: Focus on Understanding Solutions Manual*. These resources were written to align with the Atlantic Canada mathematics curriculum.

BRANCHING OUT is published 3 times yearly in October, February and April.

Back issues are available at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send an email to lrt@ednet.ns.ca.



Learning Resources *for students*

Check out the Nova Scotia Museum's Learning Resources Catalogue for details on class programs, borrowing museum kits and virtual exhibits.

Does this catalogue meet your needs? Share your opinion. Click here to view the catalogue and take our SURVEY.

museum.gov.ns.ca/resource

Learning through Mi'kmaq Pedagogy and Culture — *Aboriginal Perceptions: Towards Enhancing Teaching Practices*

In August 2006, forty-five educators from across Nova Scotia came to the Department of Education's summer institute, *Aboriginal Perceptions: Towards Enhancing Teaching Practices* which combined in-classroom and hands-on experiential learning. The 3-day institute was held in the community of Millbrook and benefited from the involvement of staff from the Department of Education, the Glooscap Heritage Center, Mi'kmawey Debert Centre, the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, and community members from Millbrook.

"The factual information was important; but, the oral tradition information was incredibly valuable," says a participant, capturing the essence of the institute. From the welcome to the community by a representative of Chief Lawrence Paul, through guided tours of the Glooscap Heritage Centre and Mi'kmawey Debert Centre and a Sweat Lodge Ceremony to the ongoing invitation to dialogue, participants were able to fully embrace Mi'kmaw learning. Participants will be able to apply and integrate their newly acquired knowledge of aspects of Mi'kmaq treaties, the impact of federal government legislation, and several specific aspects of the Mi'kmaw culture into current and future practice.

Please contact Sylvia Parris, parrissv@gov.ns.ca, if you are interested in learning more about the institute.

**EBSCO
HOST**

EBSCO online periodical database has a new address

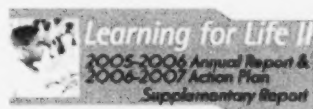
EBSCO is changing its web address to <http://search.ebscohost.com>. An automatic redirect will be in place until June 2007, but links to EBSCO should be updated to reflect the new domain. For more information, please contact lrt@ednet.ns.ca.

EBSCO contains the full-text of thousands of magazines, newspapers, primary source documents, and professional journals and is available to students, families, and educators across the province.

<http://search.ebscohost.com>

Students Benefit from Online Resources & Opportunities

Earlier this year, teachers and consultants from across Nova Scotia met at Learning Resources and Technology Services to discuss their online teaching and learning experiences. Participants shared ways that students can network with their peers and with vetted experts to pursue independent and collaborative learning opportunities. The internet and online connectivity available in schools also provides valuable content and tools that students can access for independent use, for real-time chats or discussion forums in closed environments that help with independent learning and homework. Most of these teachers maintain course information online to help families stay informed.



Learning for Life II Annual Report 05-06 and 2006-07 Action Plan Released

Last spring, government introduced its new plan for public education, *Learning for Life II: Brighter Futures Together*. Our first yearly update on the progress being made to improve education in Nova Scotia schools is now available. The annual report outlines what we have accomplished in the 2005-06 school year, and what we plan to achieve in 2006-07.

Thanks to the best efforts of all those in the public school system, we have made significant progress in building on the themes of our plan for education: raising standards for learning and teaching, adding more supports for students who aren't meeting expectations, enhancing time available for instruction, and strengthening partnerships for the benefit of all students.

This work will continue during 2006-07. Please visit our website (ednet.ns.ca) and read our action plan as well as the detailed report that provides more information about particular initiatives.

ImagesProject Has the Tom Allison Collection

Tom Allison was a Nova Scotia photographer who died in 2004. Last year, his mother gave us a large number of his photographs for the ImagesProject in order to share his work with others. The ImagesProject is a database of digital photographs that are copyright-cleared for educational use in Nova Scotia public schools. To see Tom's photos, please visit imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca and select the "Tom Allison Collection" in the repository menu.



Join the LifeWork listserv and discussion forum

Teachers of Health/PDR 7 and 8 and O2 implementing LifeWork portfolios with students are invited to join the LifeWork listserv and discussion forum. Share implementation questions and resources with fellow teachers throughout Nova Scotia. To join, send a message to macdonne@gov.ns.ca using your IMP Ednet webmail account.



Mental Math Primary-9

Mental Math is a professional development focus for administrators, school-based math leaders, and grades primary-9 mathematics teachers this school year. By the end of October, schools will have received a

seventeen-component DVD, organized in grade bands 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9, that profiles teachers and students in seven Nova Scotia classrooms. Ten grade-specific "scope and sequence" booklets for teachers have also been created. These resources will be the focus of the three 45-minute sessions that math leaders will be facilitating in their schools.

Enter the Commonwealth Essay Competition!

Students 18 years old and under can submit entries to The Commonwealth Essay Competition, also known as "Write around the World". This popular international competition is organized by the Royal Commonwealth Society.

The competition is organized into four age categories—Class A (16-18 years), Class B (14-15 years), Class C (12-13 years), and Class D (under 12 years). For each age category, students may choose from five topics or the Commonwealth Question on which to write. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top four winning essays in each age category. The deadline for essays to reach the Royal Commonwealth Society is March 1st, 2007.

For more information on competition topics, rules, and guidelines, see www.rcsint.org/essay

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2005-2006 Annual Report &
2006-2007 Action Plan
Supplementary Report

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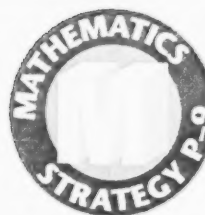
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Reality Bytes TRURO 2006

Reality Bytes

Reality Bytes, a summer institute led by Learning Resources and Technology Services, was held at the NSCC campus in Truro, August 20 to 23, 2006. Sixty-five participants and 10 facilitators from across the

province worked on team projects that encouraged the classroom integration of technology.

Each team of participants built a mascot using recycled computer parts, participated in **THE** icebreaker where the winners were the first team to thaw out and put on a T-shirt that had been soaked, and then frozen in a baggie. There were skill sessions including geographic literacy, video editing, presentation software, photographic editing and podcasting. Teams then made final presentations which showcased many of the different technological activities that they had explored. Participants were kept on their toes and benefited from the combined expertise of mentors from various boards across the province.

National Education Media Week: November 19 to 24

Media Awareness Network (MNet) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) are pleased to announce a partnership to launch and promote National Media Education Week. The first of its kind in Canada, this week will highlight the importance of media literacy and Web literacy as key learning areas in the information age.

For more information, visit
<http://www.ctf-fce.ca/nationalmediaeducationweek/default.htm>

Literacy Summer Institute—Reality Check: Yes I DO Really Have to Teach Reading!

Over two hundred teachers attended this Summer Institute held at the Old Orchard Inn July 27–28, 2006. This two-day workshop consisted of concurrent sessions, one for primary–6 teachers, the other for teachers of grades 7–12.

Tony Stead, author of *Reality Checks: Teaching Reading Comprehension with Non-Fiction K-5*, introduced and reviewed concepts and practices related to the differences between how students comprehend non-fiction and fiction. Tony's rich visual "in action" images, combined with interactive and reflective opportunities, gave elementary teachers great insight and experience to support students in working with non-fiction texts.

Cris Tovani, author of *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading?: Content Comprehension, Grades 6-12*, showed how teachers of every content area have a role to play in supporting students in successfully navigating their way through subject-specific text. Her humorous and lively interactions gave participants an engaging and enlightening look at roles, responsibilities, and ways that all teachers of junior high/middle level and high school can enhance the literacy lives of adolescents.

Plans are underway to bring Frank Serafini to Nova Scotia for next year's institute.

November 18-25 is Canadian Children's Book Week

Through the TD Grade 1 Book Giveaway Program, grade 1 students in the English school boards will receive a copy *Franklin in the Dark*; CSAP grade 1 students will receive *Benjamin et la nuit* written by Paulette Bourgeois and illustrated by Brenda Clark. These books will arrive in your schools in time to celebrate Children's Book Week.

Visit www.bookweek.ca for more information.

Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	http://acs.ednet.ns.ca
English Program Services	902-424-8945	eps@ednet.ns.ca	http://eps.ednet.ns.ca
Education Quality Services	902-424-0040		
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca	http://plans.ednet.ns.ca
French Second Language Program Services	902-424-6646	fls@ednet.ns.ca	
Learning Resources and Technology Services	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829		
Regional Education Offices	902-424-5799	(Halifax)	902-563-2080 (Sydney)
	902-893-5890	(Truro)	902-742-3427 (Yarmouth)

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://ednet.ns.ca>

